

R.T.H. asks the Utah Labor Commission to review Administrative Law Judge Sessions' denial of Mr. H.'s claim for benefits under the Utah Workers' Compensation Act ("the Act"; Title 34A, Chapter 2, Utah Code Annotated).

The Labor Commission exercises jurisdiction over this motion for review pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §63-46b-12 and Utah Code Ann. §34A-2-801(3).

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE PRESENTED

On February 7, 2006, Judge Sessions issued a decision dismissing Mr. H.'s claim for workers' compensation benefits. The decision contains no information about the context of Mr. H.'s claim, but instead relies on parts of a medical panel report to conclude that Mr. H.'s injuries were not medically caused by his work accident.

In his motion for review, Mr. H. contends that Judge Sessions misinterpreted and misapplied the medical panel's conclusions.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION OF LAW

The Commission observes that Judge Sessions' decision fails to describe Mr. H.'s work, his injury, or the substance of his claim for workers' compensation benefits. The decision also fails to coherently explain its conclusions.

The parties are entitled to a decision that: 1) identifies the issues in dispute; 2) states the facts; 3) identifies applicable law; and 4) explains the application of the law to the facts. Because Judge Sessions' decision of February 7, 2006, contains none of these elements, the Commission sets that decision aside and remands this matter to Judge Sessions with instructions to issue an adequate new decision.

Any party dissatisfied with Judge Sessions' new decision may seek Commission or Appeals Board review. Because the parties have already experienced delay in obtaining resolution of their dispute, Judge Sessions is directed to give this matter his prompt attention.

ORDER

The Commission sets aside Judge Sessions' decision of February 7, 2006, and remands Mr. H.'s claim to Judge Sessions for further proceedings consistent with this decision. It is so ordered.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2006.

R. Lee Ellertson

Utah Labor Commissioner